



FY 2009 NOAA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



National Marine Fisheries Service NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) FY 2009 budget request includes \$3.4 million for the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office. This budget request supports stewardship of the Bay's resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of ecosystem health.

Overview

In 1992, Congress formally established the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) to provide technical assistance and coordination with federal, state, and local government agencies; support the Chesapeake Bay Program; coordinate NOAA activities in the region; and ensure sound science is conducted and communicated. NCBO connects the work of many NOAA offices to partners and the citizens of the watershed. By focusing NOAA's diverse capabilities, NCBO delivers science, service, and stewardship to protect and restore the nation's valuable Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Chesapeake Bay Studies

Of the \$3.4 million requested for NCBO, \$2 million is slated for Chesapeake Bay Studies. NCBO monitors and assesses the status of living resources and habitat in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and identifies science-based management alternatives for restoration and protection in the Chesapeake Bay through:

- Researching, modeling, monitoring, and observing Bay living resources.
- Assessing oyster, blue crab, and fish populations.
- Coordinating and partnering with NOAA programs in the region to ensure maximum effectiveness.
- Developing policies and strategies to restore the Bay's living resources.
- Communicating and reaching out to the public.

Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration

Oysters provide critical ecological services and habitat for the Chesapeake Bay. Disease, poor water quality, and harvest pressure have decimated the Bay's native oyster population. In FY 2009, \$842,000 will support native oyster restoration initiatives by:

- Creating oyster reefs that can be "seeded" with hatchery-reared juvenile oysters.
- Augmenting the capacity to produce oysters, placing oysters where they will grow successfully, and monitoring their health and survival.

Chesapeake Bay Multiple Species Management

In the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, interactions among species and habitats affect the health of living resources. Effective fisheries management cannot focus solely on one species at a time. In FY 2009, \$495,000 will support multiple-species management activities to augment the use of ecosystem approaches to management by:

- Providing grants for fisheries science.
- Revising existing fisheries management plans to incorporate ecological, social, and economic considerations.
- Implementing ecosystem-based fisheries management.



NCBO staff research living resource populations from the deck of the R/V *Bay Commitment*.

NOAA FY 2009 Budget Request (\$ in Millions)

BUDGET LINES: Other Activities Supporting Fisheries Habitat Conservation & Restoration Fisheries Research & Management	FY2008 Enacted	FY2009 Prog Change	FY2009 Pres Bud Request
REGIONAL STUDIES Chesapeake Bay Studies	\$1.9	\$0.05	\$2.0
FISHERIES HABITAT RESTORATION Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration	\$2.6	\$0	\$0.8
SURVEY & MONITORING PROJECTS Chesapeake Bay Multiple Species Management	\$0.4	\$0.5	\$0.5
TOTAL	\$4.9	\$0.5	\$3.4

For more information, contact: **Patricia Montanio, Director, NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation, at 301-713-2325 or visit www.habitat.noaa.gov.**